

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 - Arrive Delhi

On arrival at the airport in Delhi. The airline staff would escort you through customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, to the exit at arrival terminal, where an Enable Travel representative will receive you with a placard bearing your name. The representative will guide you to the awaiting vehicle, facilitating your smooth transfer to your hotel and assist with check in.

A smooth check in would also involve one of the staff members familiarising you with the layout of the room and the amenities within the hotel premises.

A megacity with myriad faces, Delhi, the capital of India, has the allure of history and the liveliness of kitschy bazaars. A gateway to the country, today's Delhi is a potpourri of mixed cultures, mega structures, haunting antiquity and an ethereal legacy. Home to an unparalleled variety of nizami, punjabi, fusion and international cuisines, Delhi is a food lover's paradise. Swim through the numerous chowks and bylanes brimming with food vendors and stalls, restaurants and food carts that paint the air with rich aromas and delectable flavours - from the street food of North India to gourmet fare, Delhi answers to every craving with aplomb.

Unwind in the comfort of your hotel or explore your neighbourhood for the day.

Note:

- Standard check in time is at 1400 hours.
- Early check in is subject to availability.

**Meals included:** None (meals on your own)

Thikana Home Stay

### Day 2 - Delhi

#### Explore the city of Delhi.

Following breakfast, start a mesmerising tour of the City of Djinn with a visit to Imperial Delhi, accompanied by your local guide. Soak in the grandiose of the city with a drive past the imposing 42 metre tall India Gate a War Memorial Arch, set amidst the sprawling gardens. With its eternal flame and the names inscribed on its arch, it affords a perfect tribute to the 82,000 soldiers of the Indian Army who died in the First World War.

Drive past the Parliament House and the Rashtrapati Bhavan (the President's Residence), a structure epitomising India's strength, democratic traditions and secular character.

Our next destination is the magnificent Tomb of Humayun, a perfect culmination of distinctly evolved Mughal architecture in the Indian subcontinent, inspiring the Taj Mahal.

This impressive structure is built on a monumental scale, grandeur of design, square garden (charbagh) setting inspired by the description of paradise in the Holy Quran, with no precedence in the Islamic world for a mausoleum

such as this.

A beautiful synthesis of Persian architecture and Indian traditions, exemplified by the arched alcoves, corridors, the high double dome, the kiosks, giving it a pyramidal outline from distance. As you stand facing the tomb, visualise perfect symmetry - the cornerstone of Mughal architecture.

Run your fingers over the intricate patterns carved on the red sand stone lattice screens and feel the dexterity of the stone artisans of yore to be able to create fine masterpieces on stone - a perfect marriage of skills and simplistic tools.

We drive through the busy streets of Delhi catching a glimpse of a bustling life not ready to stop at any point of time. We visit the Qutab Minar, the leaning tower of India (it leans 2 feet off its axis) located in a lush green complex. Though, it was the first formal entry of Islamic rule in India, its various structures offers very interesting insights into its architecture.

As you touch the pillars in the Quwwat ul Islam mosque, you realise the haphazard placement of stones and columns carrying figures or patterns from Hindu temple architecture. This is indicative of the non-existence of any architectural plan preceding the construction of Qutub Minar.

Run your fingers over the calligraphic arches and feel the intricacy of the patterns carved on its various curves. India gets its first crude arch! If time permits, enjoy some shopping at the Emporio designer mall.

After a satisfying day of sightseeing, return to the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Thikana Home Stay

### **Day 3 - Delhi**

#### **Enjoy a city tour of Old Delhi.**

This morning, following a leisurely breakfast, take in the smells and sounds of Old Delhi with the visit to the magical old town.

A word of advice: before leaving your hotel, we suggest you pack your suntan lotion, sunhat, etc.

Your introduction to the grand old city begins with a visit to the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Situated on a mound in the heart of the erstwhile capital of the Mughals, this red sandstone structure projects beautifully into the Old Delhi skyline with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Lady travellers will be handed over gowns as a protocol to visit the mosque.

For a short but exciting adventurous ride, hop on to the most characteristic means of transport in India, the cycle rickshaw - a manually peddled three-wheeler. Bizarre horns, an occasional bump, organised chaos, crowds, a maze of narrow alleys, soothing fragrances, pungent smells, stray dogs and the holy cow - all this and much more comes your way as your cycle rickshaw skilfully meanders through the by lanes of the walled city of Shahjahanabad.

After having experienced all the hustle and bustle of Old Delhi, we now switch over to the calm and serene Raj Ghat - the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. Raj Ghat with its sublime expanse of lush green trees and simplistic austerity, affords a perfect ode to one of the greatest souls ever. It is bound to leave you with an aftertaste of inspiration.

We now head to the Red Fort. The residence of the Mughal Kings till 1857, the Red Fort is a remarkable monument carved out of red sandstone and was the pride of the Mughal Empire, built at the pinnacle of their reign. Bring home a piece of history as you take in the intricate detailing of its Halls of Private and Public Audience.

The rest of day is at leisure for independent activities. If you require us to organise transportation for you to pursue any of the optional activities, please let us know in advance.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Thikana Home Stay

#### **Day 4 - Delhi - Agra**

**Transfer from hotel in Delhi to hotel in Agra, en route visit Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb.**

After a hearty breakfast, It's time for a scenic and smooth drive to explore the renowned, ancient capital city of the Mughals - Agra, via the Express Highway (a journey of 202 km / 4.5 hours drive approx.). There are provisions along the way to stop for a cup of tea or coffee along with fairly clean washrooms.

The reservoir of epic stories and wondrous romance, Agra is enveloped in a tapestry of magic and allure. Known to the world as the city of the 'Taj Mahal', Agra is a story woven by the Mughals with their political design and artistic propensity. The architectural splendour of the mausoleums, forts and palaces is a vivid reminder of the opulence of the empire that came to shape the ethos of the region for centuries to come. From the Taj Mahal to the massive Agra Fort, Agra is rife with beauty, opulence and an unfound grace.

The charisma of time of yore greet you right at the outskirts of the city, as you stop to visit the magnificent Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb, popularly known as the 'Baby Taj'. Filled with gardens, mini structures and heritage monuments, this elegant tomb is the first structure of its kind to be constructed of pure marble in Mughal India, and a perfect draft of the iconic Taj Mahal.

On arrival, check in to your hotel.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Coral Tree

#### **Day 5 - Agra**

**Call:** 1800 266 8002

**Website:** <https://www.enabletravel.com/en-in/>

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### **Enjoy a visit to the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.**

Your day begins after a sumptuous breakfast with a visit to the Taj - the epitome of marvellous Mughal architecture. Partake in the poetry of the beautiful Taj and the lost love stories that surround the mausoleum, as it sits reminiscing by the gurgling Yamuna.

In order to protect the Taj Mahal from vehicular pollution, tourist vehicles are allowed only up to the designated parking zone which is a short distance away from the Taj Mahal entrance. Here onwards, we are expected to board battery operated vehicles (golf cart / bus) to reach the main entrance of the Taj and back.

Celebrated for its structural magnificence and aesthetic beauty, symbolically, the Taj Mahal complex was conceived as a replica on earth of the house of Mumtaz in paradise.

Additionally, sound was also used to express ideas of paradise. The interior of the mausoleum has a reverberation time of 28 seconds, providing an atmosphere where the words of the Hafiz, as they prayed for the soul of Mumtaz, would linger in the air.

Truly a symphony in white marble, its magical serenity almost merges with the calmness of the River Yamuna.

Words fail us as we describe the exterior decorations of the Taj Mahal as among the finest in Mughal architecture. Worth caressing are its calligraphic panels, its abstract forms, its recessed arches, its lattice screens, vegetative motifs and passages from the Quran that comprise some of the decorative elements.

We will now head off to Agra Fort, an outstanding example of Mughal art and architecture. An impregnable military structure built by Akbar, the Agra Fort luxuriated with the elegance, lavishness and majesty of an imperial palace - a perfect synthesis of civic and military architecture. Relive the era as you step into the seat of power and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire. Absorb the glory of this imposing, red sandstone structure and visualise the fabled peacock throne, which incorporated virtually all the important gems of the imperial treasury here, as well as the beautiful Diwan-e-khas, or Private Audience Hall within the fort.

As you move towards the fort entrance, be ready to hear the excited and forceful vendors hawking away cheap souvenirs.

Go back in time as you walk up the ridged ramp which was once used by royalty to enter or exit the fort on horsebacks. Put your ear to the hollow walls in the summer palace and hear voices reverberating in the room.

Experience the masterpiece of acoustics in the hall of public audience which meant the emperor was loud and clear enough for all those present there. If you are lucky, with not many people around, you could easily hear the finest of the sounds from a distance.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Coral Tree

## **Day 6 - Agra - Jaipur**

### **Transfer from hotel in Agra to hotel in Jaipur, en route visit Fatehpur Sikri.**

Following breakfast, take the scenic road from the capital of the Mughals to the capital of the Kachwaha Rajputs - Jaipur (a journey of 230 km / 7 hours approx.). As you leave Agra and embark on a long yet fascinating day of travel, the rural landscape unfolds the soul of India hidden in its villages. The contrast is indeed breathtaking dotted with thatched roofs and cow dung cakes. Yes, India still lives in its villages!

Make a stop at the deserted fort of Fatehpur Sikri, a brilliant fusion of both Hindu and Mughal architecture. Located just 40 km from Agra, it is an enchanting folly that changed the landscape of the region, a mesmerising capital city built by Akbar in honour of Sufi saint Sheikh Salim Chisti, only to be deserted within 14 years to fall to slow, poetic ruin.

Embrace and feel the delicately carved pillar at the hall of private audience - a beautiful manifestation of Akbar's secular attempt towards unification of all the religions. Visiting the Turkish queen's palace is an experience that will leave you spellbound. Standing close to the wall facing it, stretching out both your hands, feel the exquisite craftsmanship - every inch of the palace is profusely carved. Each of its stone slab has a different design such as arabesque designs on the pillars of verandah and bell-shaped, floral and herring-bone carvings on the brackets supporting the roof. The dado panels depict scenes of forests and gardens. There are animal motifs and swastik patterns too.

On arrival in Jaipur, proceed to check in at your hotel.

Jaipur, one of the most enticing places in India, is nestled between mighty forts and the rugged Aravalli Hills. It is known as the 'pink city' as its prominent buildings are washed in this colour. It steeped in Rajput history and characterised by sites such as the City Palace with its astronomical observatory, Hawa Mahal and the beautiful Amber Fort, Jaipur is a bustling capital city and a business centre with all the trappings of a modern metropolis, yet flavoured strongly with an age-old charm that never fails to surprise a traveller.

### **Meals included:** Breakfast

Camellia

## **Day 7 - Jaipur**

### **Visit Amber and photo stop at Hawa Mahal.**

Get ready, post a luxurious breakfast, to explore the the pink city. Soaked in myriad shades of pink, the plethora of heritage sites boasts of scholarly intellect, courage and sheer extravagance.

Begin an exciting day around Amber with a photo stop at the beautiful Hawa Mahal. The Palace of Winds is a five-storey spectacle with a dazzling pyramidal facade and overhanging windows. The journey now continues on to the ancient Amber Palace. Perched atop a ridge just outside Jaipur city, Amber is surrounded by fortified battlements, overlooking the Maota Lake. Built in the 17th century, it was once the seat of power before the birth of the Jaipur's City Palace. Though not long, through a winding uphill and a bit rough drive, you are taken in your car up to the drop-off point from where you enter the main gate, which opens out into the first courtyard of the palace.

Don't be surprised if you are welcomed into the main courtyard by the beat of drums and bugle of trumpet along with

the elephants as they enter the palace from the royal entrance.

As you cruise through the palace, you are likely to overhear multilingual excerpts from a multitude of local guides briefing their own guests, helping you script your own story of the monument.

Within the complex is the Ganesh Pol, an awe-inspiring gateway painted with beautiful images of the elephant-headed god, Ganesh. An amicable synthesis of Rajput and Mughal architecture adorns the apartments, gardens and landscaping of the palace.

The rest of the day is at leisure to explore and soak in the city.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Camellia

### **Day 8 - Jaipur** **Explore the city of Jaipur.**

The day begins with a tour of the pink city, an abode of maharajas. The highlights of the tour include a visit to sections of the City Palace a repository of Rajasthani artefacts and culture. It houses a remarkable collection of Rajasthani costumes, and armory of Mughals and Rajputs, an art gallery, intricately designed carpets, royal paraphernalia and rare astronomical works. Next, you proceed to the awe-inspiring Jantar Mantar Observatory, a stone astrological and astronomical observatory built in the 18th century. Known for its ingenuity, this scientific 'play-ground' paved the way for modern astronomy and continues to guide priests, even today, in carrying out astrological predictions that impact different spheres of life.

A surprise awaits you as you listen to your local guide, who explains the usage and accuracy of the different astronomical instruments. Who could have thought that time, calendar and planetary events calculation is possible with such stone structures? Can you envisage the measuring of celestial latitude and longitude and the zodiac signs?

Late in the afternoon, explore the bustling bazaar of the old city to shop for the famous Jaipuri textiles and jewellery.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Camellia

### **Day 9 - Jaipur - Udaipur**

Have an early breakfast at the hotel and bid farewell to the wondrous city. You will be met by an Enable Travel representative at your hotel that will facilitate your transfer to the airport. The airline staff will help you with all the check in formalities right up to boarding the plane. We shall inform you in advance of the pickup time for your departure to the airport.

Note: Flight cost not included.

On arrival at the airport in Udaipur, the airline staff will escort you to the exit at the arrival terminal where you will be received by an Enable Travel representative with a placard bearing your name. The representative will guide you to the awaiting vehicle, facilitating your smooth transfer to your hotel and assist with check in.

With a poetic setting around the shores of Lake Pichola, and a backdrop of gentle rolling hills, it does not take long to figure out why Udaipur is easily one of the most romantic cities in Rajasthan. This 'Venice of the East' is a brilliant kaleidoscope of myriad fairytale marble palaces, narrow lanes, age-old temples and quaint havelis.

Visit Udaipur and its inimitable beauty and historic past will linger on with you for a lifetime and more.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Balunda House

#### **Day 10 - Udaipur**

**Visit the City Palace, followed by a visit to old city market and Saheliyon-ki-Bari.**

After a leisurely breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to sections of the striking City Palace Complex. Amidst blocks of pastel-coloured buildings, the City Palace surfaces towards the sky through the rooftops. Lattice balconies and intricately carved windows adorn the exterior of the grand palace, while sparkling mosaic tiles and stain glass embellish its interior.

As you leave your vehicle to walk to the City Palace, you can actually feel the roughness of the ash grey stone under your feet. This is the pathway till you enter the main building. Walk past the three-arched gateway known as Tripolia to enter the first courtyard where the royals would get off their elephants, horses and camels.

Experience the low ceilinged narrow corridors that take you up the narrow winding staircases with uneven heighted steps - though ancient, they were an advance strategic mechanism of defence. Can you imagine an enemy being able to breach the palace?

Envisage the dazzling period rooms with colourful mosaic work and miniatures - the most popular art from this city.

From the palace, continue on a walk to the old City market, when suddenly the sound of a bell resonates in your ear. You are now at the Jagdish Temple - one of the landmarks of the old city. Stop by at the temple and inhale the freshness of marigold and rose flowers. And, of course, the roadside flower vendors are always there for you to buy a handful from. Enjoy the treasures of this buzzing local market with its colourful and interesting souvenirs.

Myriad voices of vendors selling almost everything and the local street food aroma surround the air - camera batteries, memory cards, post cards, soft drinks, miniature paintings, the masala chai and the very popular, samosa!

Later in the afternoon, we visit Saheliyon-ki-Bari, the Garden of the Maids, designed as a peaceful retreat outside the old city of Udaipur. Built by Maharana Sangram Singh II for the 48 girls that he received as part of his dowry, this quiet garden presents a perfect fusion of Indian and English architecture. It is a good spot to enjoy the tranquility of

lush green lawns, fountains, pools, flowers, trees and some marble art.

Experience the spray of coolness, coming from its many fountains, as it caresses your face. As you stroll through its many pathways, you may just be lucky enough to deep breathe in a whiff of seasonal flowers. Your soul stirs as you listen to a bird or two tweeting away. Truly a relaxing experience!

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Balunda House

### **Day 11 - Udaipur**

Post breakfast at the hotel and take your time to enjoy the peace and tranquility the city offers at the banks of its beautiful lakes and marble palaces. If you so wish, you could also choose to take an optional excursion to the beautiful Jain Temples of Ranakpur.

Hidden deep in the Aravalli hills, some 90 km from Udaipur, is Ranakpur. It boasts of some of the most exquisite Jain Temples in the country famous for their intricate friezes and sculptures. 1,444 intricately carved marble pillars spread out over 48,000 sq ft make this one of the most impressive temples you will ever see. What's most interesting is that no two pillars are alike.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Balunda House

### **Day 12 - Udaipur - Delhi**

After breakfast at the hotel, your morning is at leisure for you to explore the city.

You will be met by an Enable Travel representative at your hotel that will facilitate your transfer to the airport. We shall inform you in advance of the pickup time for your departure to the airport.

Note: Flight cost not included.

On arrival at the airport in Delhi, the airline staff will escort you to the exit of the arrivals terminal where an Enable Travel representative will receive you with a placard bearing your name. The representative will now guide you to the awaiting vehicle, facilitating your smooth transfer to your hotel and assist with check in.

A smooth check -in will also involve one of the staff members familiarising you with the layout of the room and the amenities within the hotel premises.

**Meals included:** Breakfast



Hotel Ibis

**Day 13 - Depart Delhi**

Breakfast at the hotel, after which you have the morning to relax.

Check out of your hotel at 1200 hours.

Today, you bid farewell to your tour, continuing onwards to your next destination.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

## Inclusions

- Accommodation at hotels mentioned or similar.
- Transfers by AC vehicle as mentioned in the itinerary.
- All excursions and sightseeing tours by AC vehicle as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary.
- Services of an English speaking local guide for the sightseeing tours as per itinerary.
- Assistance of an Enable Travel representative at airports..
- All currently applicable taxes, i.e. Hotel tax and Transportation tax.
- Travel insurance.
- Porterage at airport - 2 pieces of baggage per person.

## Exclusions

- Any transport to / from airport in Delhi. Your tour price starts ex Delhi.
- Air, train or bus fare from / to your originating city of stay, unless specified.
- Internal flight.
- Any meals / en route meals unless specified.
- Any additional sightseeing tours other than the mentioned in inclusions.
- Items of personal nature viz, tips, portorage, room service, laundry, mineral water, alcoholic or non alcoholic beverages, phone calls, additional sightseeing tours and excursions not included in the itinerary, still or video camera fees etc.
- Any increase in fuel cost, government taxes, entrance fees, intra and interstate taxes etc, the tour price will be amended in accordance.
- Entrance fees @ INR 1469 per person, payable extra over and above the tour cost.
- Any items or services not specified in the itinerary under 'HOLIDAY PRICE INCLUDES' header.
- Supplement charges applicable for long weekends and festivals.
- Any rides, safaris, boating charges, additional sightseeing tours other than the mentioned in inclusions.
- Goods and Services Tax of 5%.


**Accommodation**

**New Delhi**

3 nights

**Thikana Home Stay**

Economy Room

 Room service

@ Internet



**Agra**

2 nights

**Coral Tree**

@ Internet




**Jaipur**

3 nights

**Camellia**

Economy Room

 Bar

 Room service

 Restaurant

 Pool



**Udaipur**

3 nights

**Balunda House**

Economy Room

 Air Conditioner

@ Internet




**New Delhi**

1 night

**Hotel Ibis**

Economy Room

 Bar

 Room service

 Air Conditioner

 Business Center

 Restaurant

 Pool

@ Internet



**Price**

Price Validity	Category	Twin / Double	Single
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	ECONOMY	INR 74,214	INR 82,445
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	HERITAGE	INR 77,479	INR 89,141
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	SUPERIOR	INR 81,065	INR 93,646
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	DELUXE	INR 93,443	INR 1,13,597
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	LUXURY	INR 2,49,605	INR 3,88,681